

# What diverse experimental approaches tell us about the comprehension and production of French adjective-noun pairs

Anna Preßler RTG ‘Nominal Modification’ Goethe-University Frankfurt

The central focus of this talk is to discuss how diverse methods contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between language comprehension and production while addressing a common research question.

Drawing on a series of distinct experiments, I examine the positioning within noun phrases of a set of French attributive adjectives that allow prenominal and postnominal placement without apparent semantic differences associated with the position of the adjective, see (1).

- (1) a. un charmant garçon                      b. un garçon charmant  
    a charming boy                              a boy charming  
    ‘a charming boy’                            ‘a charming boy’

(Thuilier, 2014: 289)

In accordance with previous research on the effect of length on the order of constituents and words showing a preference for an ordering in terms of increasing length (Benor & Levy, 2006; Bresnan et al., 2007; Hawkins, 2000; Thuilier, 2012; Yao, 2018), we predict that elements within the NP are likewise inclined to respect the short-before-long ordering.

To investigate the impact of relative length (in number of syllables) on position, three studies were conducted: a written Likert-scale acceptability judgment task, a written forced-choice acceptability judgment task and a spoken elicited production task.

I explore the (dis)advantages of using several methods and compare the added value of each method, relating them to the underlying linguistic processes in use. In addition, I will debate the expectations with regard to the distinct studies: do I expect them to provide different or similar results?

## References

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